

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A flexible conduit for a breathing circuit comprising:

an inlet,

5 an outlet,

an enclosing outer wall defining a flexible gases passageway between said inlet and said outlet, at least a region of said enclosing outer wall being of a material that allows the passage of water vapour without allowing the passage of liquid water or respiratory gases through said enclosing outer wall, and

10 a ~~heating means~~ heater wire located within said passageway conduit, ~~said heating means comprising an elongate heating element~~, wherein

said flexible conduit is of a type suitable for conveying breathing gases to or from a patient.

15 2. (Currently Amended) A flexible conduit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said conduit is an expiratory limb and said ~~heating means~~ heater wire is located in an expiratory flow path of said expiratory limb.

3. (Currently Amended) A flexible conduit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said ~~heating~~
20 ~~means~~ heater wire lies freely in said conduit to settle over at least some of its length at low points in said conduit where condensed water vapour may collect.

4. (Currently Amended) A flexible conduit as claimed in claim 2, wherein said ~~heating~~
~~means~~ heater wire lies freely in said conduit to settle over at least some of its length at low points
in said conduit where condensed water vapour may collect.

5 5. (Currently Amended) A flexible conduit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said flexible
conduit ~~breathing circuit~~ is a coaxial breathing circuit including,

an inner conduit, having said inlet, said outlet and said enclosing outer wall,

an outer conduit, having a second inlet and a second outlet,

said inner conduit located within said outer conduit,

10 said inlet of said inner conduit and said second outlet of said outer conduit being located
at a first end of said flexible conduit, and

said outlet of said inner conduit and said second inlet of said outer conduit being located
at a second end of said flexible conduit, and

15 said ~~heating means~~ heater wire is located in a space between said inner conduit and said
outer conduit.

6. (Currently Amended) A flexible conduit as claimed in claim 3, wherein said flexible
conduit ~~breathing circuit~~ is a coaxial breathing circuit including,

an inner conduit, having said inlet, said outlet and said enclosing outer wall,

20 an outer conduit, having a second inlet and a second outlet,

said inner conduit located within said outer conduit,

said inlet of said inner conduit and said second outlet of said outer conduit being located

at a first end of said flexible conduit, and

said outlet of said inner conduit and said second inlet of said outer conduit being located at a second end of said flexible conduit, and

said ~~heating means~~ heater wire is located in a space between said inner conduit and said
5 outer conduit.

7. (Currently Amended) A flexible conduit as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein said conduit~~
~~includes~~ further including at least one helically wound polymer tape or strip, part or all of said
tape or strip being of a material that allows the passage of water vapour without allowing the
10 passage of liquid water or respiratory gases, respective edges of adjacent turns of said tape or
strip being adjoining or overlapping and bonded.

8. (Currently Amended) A flexible conduit as claimed in claim 5, ~~wherein said conduit~~
~~includes~~ further including at least one helically wound polymer tape or strip, part or all of said
15 tape or strip being of a material that allows the passage of water vapour without allowing the
passage of liquid water or respiratory gases, respective edges of adjacent turns of said tape or
strip being adjoining or overlapping and bonded.

9. (Currently Amended) A flexible conduit as claimed in claim 7, further including lateral
20 reinforcement against crushing wherein said lateral reinforcement is a helical bead disposed over
said adjoining or overlapping edges between turns of said tape or strip.

10. (Currently Amended) A flexible conduit as claimed in claim 8, further including lateral reinforcement against crushing wherein said lateral reinforcement is a helical bead disposed over said adjoining or overlapping edges between turns of said tape or strip.